

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-55 (Canceled).

56. (Currently Amended) A crane comprising:

- a vertical post including a post bearing surface forming at least a partial arc about a vertical axis of the vertical post;
- a superstructure pivotal about the vertical post and including a boom foot having a pivot point;
- a boom extending from the boom foot and pivotable in a vertical plane about the pivot point in response to one [[ore]] or more lines extending between the boom and a swivel-post head near a top of the vertical post;
- a single roller chain encompassing at least a segment of the post bearing surface and comprising:
 - a plurality of rollers arranged in a pivotally-linked sequence, each roller including a rotational axis generally parallel to the vertical axis of the vertical post and a roller surface in rolling contact with the post bearing surface, wherein the rollers are distributed with equal spacing on an arc along the post bearing surface with at least 180 degrees between a first roller and a last roller;
 - a first anchor coupled to the crane superstructure and operably, pivotally-linked to the first roller; and
 - a second anchor coupled to the crane superstructure and operably, pivotally-linked to the last roller; and
- the first and second anchors being positioned to make the arc of the roller chain substantially symmetrical with respect to the vertical plane of boom motion and to tension the rollers against the post-bearing surface, whereby the pivoting action of the rollers maintains substantially equal distribution of radial loads from the boom across all rollers in the roller chain.

57. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the pivot point is located above the roller chain.

58. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, further comprising:
a support collar radially extending from the vertical post;
an annular ring extending from the superstructure; and
a container ring including a plurality rollers having rotational axes generally perpendicular to the vertical axis and wherein the rollers rollingly displace between the support collar and the annular ring.

59. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 58, wherein the container ring is located below the roller chain.

60. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the post bearing surface is the outer surface of the vertical post.

61. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the post bearing surface has a rail and at least one roller of the roller chain is flanged to engage the rail.

62. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the rollers of the roller chain have a double inclined faces, the post bearing surface has a rail with a V profile, and the double inclined faces of the rollers matingly interface with the V profile of the rail.

63. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the rollers of the roller chain have arcuate faces, the post bearing surface has an arcuate face, and the faces of the rollers of the roller chain matingly interface with the arcuate face of the post bearing surface.

64. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, further comprising a back roller including a rotational axis generally parallel to the vertical axis and a roller surface in rolling contact with the post bearing surface, wherein the back roller is operably coupled to the superstructure and positioned along the post bearing surface in a location not encompassed by the roller chain.

65. (Currently Amended) The crane of claim 56, further comprising a containment pad secured to the vertical [[center]] post and/or the superstructure and adapted to prevent the displacement of the roller chain in at least one vertical direction.

66. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, further comprising a flange supported by the superstructure and adapted to prevent the displacement of the roller chain in at least one vertical direction.

67. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the roller chain encompasses at least approximately 270 degrees of arc along the post bearing surface of the vertical post.

68. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the equal spacing of the rollers comprises a radial offset between consecutive rollers in the chain between approximately two degrees and approximately 20 degrees.

69. (Previously Presented) The crane of claim 56, wherein the equal spacing of the rollers comprises a radial offset between consecutive rollers in the chain between approximately five degrees and approximately 15 degrees.